



"And finally, I want to thank all of you -- all the women who have served this nation with courage, determination, and distinction, from World War II to today in Iraq and Afghanistan. You have served in times of war and in times of peace -- an all-volunteer force right from the beginning -- part of a proud tradition that stretches back more than two centuries."

~ First Lady, Michelle Obama, Speech honoring Women in the Military, November 18, 2009

March is Women's History Month—Writing Women Back into History

March 2010

In the 18th century, women fought for the freedom to vote. Now, in the 21st century, women fight for our very freedom. Throughout the month of March, we recognize the history and celebrate the spirit of women whose courage and sacrifice make our Army the strength of the Nation.

Since 1775, women have served in the Army in a variety of missions and capacities. Time and again these women have proven that when freedom is threatened, they lead as warriors and they respond with invaluable service.

Over time, women have shaped and enriched the character of the US Army from Margaret Corbin in 1776 who handled cannon ammunition, to the creation of the Women's Army Corps in 1943. Women's service to our Nation is, and always has been, a reflection of American society and values. Today, we have more than 250,000 female Soldiers and Army Civilians serving across the world, and that number continues to grow. As we move into the ninth year of persistent conflict, we are reminded how invaluable women are to the protection of our great Nation.

We encourage you all to recognize the importance of women in history, and celebrate our female Soldiers and Army Civilians, not only during Women's History Month, but every single day as these women place the needs of our Nation above their own.

Kenneth O. Preston
Sergeant Major of the Army

George W. Casey, Jr.
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff

John M. McHugh
Secretary of the Army